

Message Text

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USLO RIYADH

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RIYADH FOR STEPHEN BOSWORTH

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 00482, SENT SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME GENEVA OTTATA
BUENOS AIRES NEW DELHI ISLAMABAD CAIRO TOKYO 10 JAN 78:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 00482

PASS ELECTRONICALLY AGRICULTURE FOR HATHAWAY & NOVOTNY
ALSO FOR USEEC AND USMIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL

REF: STATE 5731. MORNING SESSION OF JAN 10 DEVOTED TO

ORAL REPORT BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON WORK OF DRAFTING

GROUP MEETING EARLY DECEMBER. PAROTTE REVIEWED REASONS

FOR EXISTENCE OF VERSIONS A AND B AND SAID THAT

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM WOULD NOT BE READILY APPARENT

TO COUNTRIES THAT HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN DRAFTING GROUP.

PAROTTE HOPED THAT BETWEEN NOW AND THE CONVENING OF

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POSSIBLE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE, PARTICIPANTS WOULD
AGREE TO EITHER VERSION A OR B AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION
SO AS NOT TO WASTE VALUABLE TIME DURING NEGOTIATING CON-
FERENCE. IF BOTH A AND B ARE TO GO FORWARD HE SUGGESTED
COUNCIL SHOULD CLARIFY DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THEM SO AS
NOT TO CAUSE CONFUSION. PAROTTE ALSO OUTLINED THE DEC-
ISION THAT WOULD NEED TO BE TAKEN IF IT WAS DECIDED TO

CONVENE A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE, I.E. WHAT COMMITTEES TO SET UP AND WHO WOULD BE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN. AT CONCLUSION OF PAROTTE'S REPORT IT WAS DECIDED TO ADJOURN COUNCIL SESSION UNTIL WEDNESDAY MORNING TO ALLOW EXPORTER AND IMPORTER MEETINGS TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

2. EXPORTERS MEETING BEGAN TUESDAY AFTERNOON WITH REQUEST FOR REPORT ON US/EC DEC 19 MEETING. MEEKER (US) RESPONDED ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS IN REF. PIZUTTI (EC) CONCURRED IN MEEKER'S DESCRIPTION THAT DISCUSSIONS ON WHEAT AND FEEDGRAINS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN SEPARATE SUB-GROUPS. POLEZHAEV (USSR), WHO WAS ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF EXPORTERS MEETING, EMPHASISED THAT IWC COMPETENCE ONLY PERTAINED TO WHEAT AND THAT FROM LEGAL AND PRACTICAL POINT IF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE CONVENED IT SHOULD BE A WHEAT NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE NOT A GRAIN NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION PIZUTTO WAS ADAMANT THAT UNCTAD SHOULD CALL FOR A GRAIN NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE ON THE BASIS OF TEXTS ON TABLE, RATHER THAN WHEAT NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. HE ALSO INSISTED THAT EXISTING TEXTS SHLD NOT BE CHANGED. ARGENTINA AND CANADA AGREED FOR WHEAT NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. CANADA PROPOSED THAT COUNCIL CONCLUSION REFLECT THAT ALL COUNTRIES FAVOR NEGOTIATION ON WHEAT AND THAT SOME HAVE ALSO AGREED TO DISCUSS FEEDGRAINS. POLEZHAEV PICKED UP THIS SUGGESTION BUT EC REJECTED ANY SPECIFICATION OF CONFERENCE ON 'WHEAT' INSTEAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF 'GRAINS'. SUGGESTION MADE THAT UNCTAD CALL FOR A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE TO ARRIVE AT AN ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE CURRENT 1971 INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT. US SUPPORTED THIS POSITION. QUESTION OF KIND OF NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE UNCTAD SHOULD CALL WAS LEFT UNRESOLVED. DURING DISCUSSION PIZUTTO DISTRIBUTED TO SOME MEMBERS COPY OF US-EC PARAGRAPH AGREED DURING BERGLAND/GUNDELACH MEETING.

3. WHEN IMPORTERS TURNED TO QUESTION OF CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, EC (WHICH HAD ATTENDED BOTH EXPORTER AND IMPORTER MEETINGS) ANNOUNCED THAT IMPORTERS HAD AGREED ON NOMINATION OF PAROTTE, AND THAT COMMUNITY SUPPORTED HIS CANDIDACY. CANADA AND ARGENTINA COMMENTED THAT TASK OF CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WHO WOULD ALSO HAVE TO MANAGED SECRETARIAT AND DIRECT ECONOMIC WORK. US SAID POSITION ON CHAIRMAN WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION THOUGH WE RECOGNIZED BURDEN OF ASSIGNING DUAL TASKS TO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CANADAIN QUESTION, IWC CHAIRMAN POLEZHAEV INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE AND

STRESSED THAT COUNCIL SHOULD FURTHER CONSIDER THIS
QUESTION AND ATTEMPT TO REACH SOME CONCLUSION THIS
WEEK. BREWSTER UNQUOTE. VANCE

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